

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-5 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 5 being independent. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended herein.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claim 2 recites allowable subject matter. This claim was objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 1 and 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Without conceding the propriety of this objection and rejection and solely to expedite issuance, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the features of dependent Claim 2, with minor changes, and have cancelled dependent Claim 2. The changes have not been made for any reasons related to patentability. Thus, Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. In addition, Claims 3 and 4 depend from Claim 1 and, therefore, are also allowable. Further, independent method Claim 5 has been amended similarly to Claim 1 and should also be allowed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection are requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", written over a horizontal line.

Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
MAW:tnt

DC_MAIN 198276v1